

The type came from the Himalayas. In Hampson's Moths, iv. p. 305, *aureolalis*, Led., is made a synonym of *D. evaxalis*, Walker; at p. 424 he makes *aureolalis*, Led., a *Pionea*, and sinks *ochrealis*, Moore, and *contractalis*, Warren, to it; these last two have different scaling, are of a different shade of yellow, and, I think, are good forms: in P. Z. S. 1898, p. 689, and 1899, p. 246, he repeats the same positions, but in the former he gives Lederer's reference as p. 473, and in the latter as p. 375; but both Lederer's references refer to the same insect, the former being a list with localities and the latter a description of the same.

*Hemiscopsis polusalis.*

*Botys polusalis*, Walker, xviii. 703 (1859).

*Hydrorybina polusalis*, Hmps. Moths Ind. iv. p. 239 (1896).

*Clupeosoma polusalis*, Hmps. Trans. Ent. Soc. 1897, p. 217.

Sarawak, Borneo.

The genus *Clupeosoma* = *Hydrorybina* belongs to the family Hydrocampidæ; but from the examination of a number of examples of this species from Sarawak I find that it does not belong to that family: vein 10 on fore wings is not stalked with 8 and 9, it is really only approximated to 8 and 9; it is necessary to denude the wing of scales to see this properly. The species fits well into the genus *Hemiscopsis*, Warren.

XXI.—On a Collection of Mammals from the Kanuku Mountains, British Guiana. By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.R.S.

By the help of Mr. F. V. McConnell, Mr. J. J. Quelch, recently Director of the British Guiana Museum, has been enabled to make a collecting expedition to the Savannah region in the interior of the colony, near the Brazilian boundary. The collection was formed in the Kanuku Mountains, about 59° W. and 3° N., and on the savannahs near their base, at altitudes varying from 240 to 2000 feet.

Mr. McConnell, whose name is already known to science by his exploration of Mt. Roraima\*, has been generous enough to present the whole of the mammals obtained by Mr. Quelch to the National Museum, and I have now the privilege of giving an account of them.

The collection proves to be of extraordinary and quite

\* See Trans. Linn. Soc., 2nd ser. Zool. viii. p. 51.

unexpected interest, and the proportion of novelties most unusual. This has been mainly due to the fact that so many Guianan and Brazilian forms have been presumed, without close comparison, to be identical with each other, while now Mr. Quelch's collection shows that although representative of each other the species are not as a rule the same. Thanks to the invaluable collections of Mr. Alphonse Robert from São Paulo, I have had for comparison with Mr. Quelch's specimens examples of most of the Brazilian species made, like Mr. Quelch's, in the most approved modern style.

No less than ten species and subspecies have now had to be described as new, and a new genus of bats has also been discovered, so that both Mr. McConnell and Mr. Quelch are to be congratulated on the highly successful result of the latter's expedition. And even when not new, such excellent series of specimens form an addition of the utmost value to the Museum Collection.

1. *Myotis*, sp.

Six skins and three spirit-specimens. Upokarit, N. Kanuku Mts., 240 feet. December 12, 1900.

2. *Rhynchonycteris naso*, Wied.

Six skins. 240 feet. October to December.

3. *Saccopteryx bilineata*, Temm.

Eight skins and three spirit-specimens. 240 feet. October.

4. *Saccopteryx leptura*, Schreb.

Two skins and three spirit-specimens. 300 feet. November.

5. *Saccopteryx canina*, Temm.

Five skins and four spirit-specimens. 600 to 2000 feet. November and December.

6. *Noctilio leporinus*, L.

One skin.

7. *Noctilio albiventer*, Spix.

Five skins and four spirit-specimens.

These specimens are all of the yellow-bellied type to which the name of *N. affinis* was applied by d'Orbigny and Gervais. I can find no cranial or other important differences between them and the whitish-bellied form of the species.

8. *Molossus maurus*, sp. n.

*a.* ♂ skin. December 11. Alt. 240 feet. *Type.*

Incisors  $\frac{2}{4}$ . Premolars  $\frac{1-1}{2-2}$ . Other characters much as in *M. (Promops) abrasus*.

General appearance very much as in *M. abrasus*, the colour, texture of fur, and structure of ears being all about as in that species. Colour throughout dark chocolate-brown; hairs of back about 6 mm. in length. Ears of medium size, not united, their inner bases close together; no trace of the characteristic muzzle-ridge of *M. rufus*; inner lobe thickened, flattened externally; outer and inner edges straight, at about right angles to each other, the tip broadly rounded off; a small convexity at the outer base just before the deep antitragal notch; antitragus long and deep, so that it may be described as triangular with a rounded upper angle, quite unlike the circular antitragus of *M. rufus*; tragus small and narrow.

Gular sac distinct, at least in male. Limbs and membranes apparently naked throughout, except just at the base of the tail and femora.

Skull in its general shape, although smaller, remarkably like that of *M. abrasus*, the shape and height of the muzzle, the development of the crests, and the proportions of the brain-case all as in that species. Ante- and supra-orbital edges rounded; mesial crest low, commencing just in front of the most constricted part of the skull and running back to the occiput. Palate ending nearly a millimetre behind the level of the last molar. Angles of lower jaw slender, not abnormally expanded laterally.

Teeth in shape and proportion quite like those of *M. abrasus*, but there is no trace of the minute upper premolar.

Dimensions of the type:—

Forearm 53 millim.

Head and body (in flesh) 64; tail (in flesh) 51; ear 19; antitragus  $6.1 \times 4.5$ ; third finger, metacarpal 53, first phalanx 24.5, second phalanx 22.5; top of knee to tip of hind claw 29.

*Type.* B. M. no. 1. 6. 4. 34.

This distinct bat falls into the group that has been called *Myopterus*, and by its size, dentition, and elongated antitragus may be readily separated from any known species.

The original *Myopterus Daubentoni*, whose skull-dimensions, as given by Peters\*, agree closely with those of *M. maurus*,

\* MB. Ak. Berl. 1869, p. 402.

was said to have its under surface of a dirty white, with a tinge of yellow, so that it cannot have been the present form.

9. *Micronycteris megalotis*, Gray.

Five skins and two spirit-specimens. 600 and 2000 feet. November, 1900.

"In tree."

In connexion with this species it may be noted that specimen *g* of Dobson's Catalogue (in spirit) is the type described by Gray in 1842, not specimen *i* as there stated. Specimen *f* is the type of *Phyllostoma elongatum*, Gray nec Geoffroy, and therefore of *Ph. scrobiculatum*, Wagn.

10. *Phyllostoma latifolium*, sp. n.

Six skins and two spirit-specimens. 1000 feet, November 6; 600 feet, December 4.

Allied to *Ph. elongatum*, but smaller, the nose-leaf shorter, broader, and with scarcely a trace of central rib.

Size about as in *Ph. discolor*, therefore rather smaller than in *Ph. elongatum*. Fur soft and fine; hairs of back about 8 mm. in length. General colour above dark smoky brown, greyer over the head and nape, darker on the back; under surface uniformly dark greyish, like the nape. No facial markings. Limbs and membranes almost entirely naked, a few hairs on the proximal part of the forearm and on the base of the interfemoral membrane.

Nose-leaf very large, much larger than in *Ph. discolor*, though exceeded in length by that of *Ph. elongatum*. Horse-shoe simple, free in front. Lancet with its central rib almost imperceptible; its sides broadly and evenly rounded, not decidedly tapering towards the tip as is the case in *Ph. elongatum*. Ears large, more broadly rounded than in *Ph. elongatum*; inner margin evenly convex, tip broadly rounded off, upper half of outer margin flattened, lower half convex. Tragus as in the allied species. Wings to the ankles. Calcars long, reaching when laid upwards just to the knee. Penis long, longer than in the other species.

Skull on the whole similar to that of *Ph. elongatum*, but markedly smaller; supraorbital edges apparently rather less developed; posterior palatal opening more narrowed and V-shaped, though not so much so as in *Ph. discolor*; basi-occipital rather more deeply pitted.

Teeth as in *Ph. elongatum*, the molars almost as broad, and therefore markedly broader than in *Ph. discolor*. Outer upper incisors rather smaller in proportion.

Dimensions :—

Forearm of the type 59 millim.

A spirit-specimen (♂) measures: head and body 75; tail 16; nose-leaf, extreme length 17, breadth of horseshoe 8·3, of lancet 8·5; ear 27; tragus, length on inner edge 7·5; forearm 59; third finger, metacarpus 53, first phalanx 16·5, second phalanx 29·5; fifth finger, metacarpus 53, first phalanx 12·5, second phalanx 13·5; lower leg 23; hind foot (c. u.) 15; calcar 19.

Skull of type: greatest length 27·5; basal length 21·5; zygomatic breadth 16; constriction 4·8; front of canine to back of *m.*<sup>3</sup> 10·4.

*Type.* Male. Original number 199. B. M. no. 1. 6. 4. 43.

This is most distinct from either of the two smaller species of *Phyllostoma*, *Ph. elongatum* and *discolor*, and cannot be confused with either of them, though nearest to the former. *Alectops ater*, Gray, said to be from Surinam, has a long tapering nose-leaf to which there is a well-marked rib, just as in *Ph. elongatum*, with which it is united by Dobson.

#### 11. *Hemiderma brevicauda*, Wied.

Six skins and three spirit-specimens. 240, 600, 1000, and 2000 feet. October to December.

#### 12. *Glossophaga soricina*, Pall.

Two in spirit. 600 feet. November.

#### 13. *Artibeus planirostris*, Spix.

Nine skins and two spirit-specimens. 240 feet. October 29.

#### 14. *Artibeus cinereus*, Gerv.

Three skins and one spirit-specimen. 240 feet. November.

#### 15. *Mesophylla Macconnelli*, gen. et sp. nn.

*a.* Skin, ♀. No. 155. November 8. 2000 feet. *Type.*

*b.* Immature, in spirit, ♂. No. 157. November 8. 2000 feet.

#### MESOPHYLLA, gen. nov. (*Phyllostomidae*).

Allied to *Vampyrops* and *Ectophylla*, but differing from both by the structure of its teeth, and especially its *m*<sub>2</sub>, a tooth diagnostic in this group, and in addition from *Vampyrops* by



its *Ectophylla*-like general characters and tooth-proportions, and from *Ectophylla* by the presence of an  $m_3$ .

Nose-leaf not peculiar, about as in *Vampyrops*, but with a minute secondary leaflet behind the main leaf on the top of the muzzle in the middle line. Ears with a supplementary lobule on the antitragus, otherwise normal. Interfemoral membrane of medium development; no trace of a tail.

Skull very much as in *Ectophylla* \*, but the basioccipital not deeply pitted. Nasal openings and palatal bones of normal extension, but the palate with many minute vacuities.

*Teeth above.* Incisors very small, not touching each other, the median ones convergent terminally. Canines and premolars also very small and pointed, closely similar to those of *Ectophylla*. Molars very peculiar, in that the anterior one is small, much smaller than the posterior, and triangular, its shape recalling that of the carnassial premolar of a carnivore, and quite unlike the transversely produced  $m^1$  of *Vampyrops*;  $m^2$  rounded, basin-shaped, without trace of interior cusp, a single large antero-external cusp present.

*Teeth below.* Incisors four in number, subequal. Premolars small, not touching each other, though the anterior pair are pressed close against the canines, each with a single main anterior cusp and a long posterior keel without cusp. Anterior molar with one long antero-external cusp and a low postero-external raised edge, its surface broad and hollowed, without further cusps. Second molar rather longer than the first, oval in section, pointed anteriorly, broadly basin-shaped, though not so much so as in *Ectophylla*, and without interior basal cusps: its edges are raised up into cusps at its anterior point, where the highest cusp is placed, antero-interiorly and postero-interiorly; these cusps appear to correspond respectively to the supplementary median anterior, the antero-internal, and the postero-internal cusps of *Vampyrops*, there being no trace of the large antero-external cusp. Last molar minute, about the size of one of the incisors.

This highly interesting genus appears to be a modification of *Vampyrops* in the direction of *Ectophylla*, having a considerable resemblance to the latter form, but without its highly specialized  $m_2$ , and with the dental formula of the former. None of the different subgenera of *Vampyrops* show any special affinity to it, all of them, whatever their dental formula, having the characteristic quadrangular  $m_2$  with a marked cusp at its antero-external as well as at its two internal angles.

\* Cf. Harrison Allen, Tr. Am. Phil. Soc. xix. p. 267 (1898).

*Mesophylla Macconnelli*, sp. n.

Size a little greater than in *Ectophylla alba*. Fur close and thick, hairs about 5 millim. long on the back. Colour of head and anterior back dull brownish white, darkening posteriorly to a brown very near Ridgway's "wood-brown." Fur of body extending on to the basal half of the forearms and femora, and on to the wing-membrane between them. Nose-leaf of medium size, not crenulated or specially complicated; the horseshoe narrow, free in front; lancet with well-defined median rib. Ears with a small rounded basal lappet on the inner edge, which above is markedly convex halfway towards the rounded tip; outer edge concave above, then convex to the antitragal notch; antitragus low, convex above, with a well-defined supplementary upright lobule near its anterior end; tragus pointed above, two projecting lobules on its external border, a peculiar thickened projection placed just in front of the tragus and almost duplicating it. Wings to the distal end of the metatarsus. Calcars short, curved backwards. Interfemoral membrane fairly broad, its narrowest point opposite the middle of the tibiæ.

Dimensions of the type:—

Forearm 30 millim.

Head and body (taken in flesh by collector) 45; ear (do.) 12·5; expanse (do.) 241; third finger, metacarpal 28, first phalanx 11·8, second phalanx 14; fifth finger, metacarpal 27·5, first phalanx 8, second phalanx 8. The following supplementary measures are taken on specimen *b*, in spirit, its forearm being 27·5 millim.:—ear 11·3; tragus on inner edge 3; nose-leaf  $9 \times 5\cdot5$ ; lower leg 10; breadth of interfemoral in centre 6·5.

Skull (of type): greatest length 17·6; basal length 13·5; zygomatic breadth 10; interorbital breadth 4·5; mastoid breadth 9; palate length 8; front of upper canine to back of  $m^2$  6·1.

This curious little bat was at first supposed to be a second species of the genus *Ectophylla*, but further examination resulted in the discovery of so many points of difference, that I have felt compelled to describe it as a distinct genus. As being the most interesting animal obtained by Mr. Quelch, I have named it in honour of the naturalist who was generous enough to provide the means for Mr. Quelch's expedition, and to give the whole of his mammal collection to the National Museum.

16. *Canis cancrivorus savannarum*, subsp. n.

$\alpha$ . Ad. ♀. No. 230. December 10. Altitude 500 feet.  
 "On Savannah." *Type*.

A small delicately-built race of the true *C. cancrivorus*.

Size, of an adult female, markedly less than in the corresponding sex of *C. cancrivorus*. General colour above coarsely grizzled grey with a strong suffusion of buffy, and freely washed with black along the middle line. The long hairs of the back are black for their basal, middle, and terminal fifths, with white subbasal and subterminal rings, though the subbasal ring is sometimes obsolete. The woolly fur is buffy, duller and tipped with brown along the back, clearer and untipped on the sides. Face buffy fawn, with indistinct darker markings at the roots of the whiskers and below the eyes; forehead and crown more greyish, with a lighter patch above each eye. Outer side of ear pale brown, passing basally and on the large postauricular patch into clear buffy. Chin brown; throat, chest, and belly white, varied with buffy on the sides and across between the fore limbs. Front and outer side of fore limbs grizzled greyish buffy; inner side clearer buffy to the wrist, the middle line of the palm dark brown. Hind limbs similarly coloured, the whole of the plantar surface blackish brown. Tail bushy, the hairs of its upperside and its tip black basally, white mesially, and with a broad black end. Below the hairs are dull whitish buffy throughout.

Skull, on the whole, closely similar to that of *C. cancrivorus*, but smaller, more lightly built, and the zygomatic outline more tapering forward in the region of the orbits. Nasals decidedly shorter, barely reaching past the level of the anterior edge of the orbit, and falling considerably short of the premaxillary processes.

Dimensions of the type (taken in the flesh) :—

Head and body 610 millim.; tail 280; hind foot (s. u.), dry, 116; ear 63.

Skull: greatest length in middle line 129; basal length 120; zygomatic breadth 70; nasals (from bottom of concavity in front)  $38 \times 10$ ; interorbital breadth 23.3; breadth across postorbital processes 35; breadth of brain-case 44; palate, length 63, breadth across  $m^1$  39; horizontal length of  $p^4$  12.2, of  $m^1$  and  $m^2$  combined 16.5; of  $m_1$  14.2,  $m_2$  8.8,  $m_3$  4.

This appears to be a small and brightly-coloured Savannah representative of the *Canis cancrivorus* of the Guianan coastlands.



17. *Sciurus Quelchii*, sp. n.

Three skins. 240 to 300 feet. November and December.

An olive-coloured species, with a yellow belly and four pairs of mammæ.

General appearance very similar to *S. cuscinus* and *Ingrami*, more olive and less brownish than in the true *S. æstuans*, *Chapmani*, and *quebradensis*. Fur fairly short, though slightly longer than in *S. æstuans*, about 8 millim. in length on the back. General colour above finely grizzled olive, this colour extending over the whole of the upper surface, on the head, and on the outer sides of the limbs, but the hands and feet are more yellowish, especially on the toes. Under surface and inner sides of limbs buffy yellow, the chest nearly pure "cream-buff," though the hairs are slaty basally throughout. Lines of demarcation not sharply defined. Ears of medium length, their fine thinly-scattered hairs fulvous, but these are too fine and too few to give any general fulvous effect. No postauricular patches. Tail mixed black and fulvous, the hairs mostly with three black rings and the tips broadly fulvous; hairs at the end of the tail more entirely black, but still with their extreme tips fulvous. Four pairs of mammæ, the most anterior close behind the axillæ.

Skull with short abruptly and squarely truncated nasals, not nearly reaching to the back of the premaxillary processes. Postorbital processes short. Molars unusually small.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 178 millim.; tail 165; hind foot, s. u. 44, c. u. 47; ear 20.

Skull: greatest length 45; basilar length 34; greatest breadth 27.5; nasals  $10.5 \times 6.2$ ; interorbital breadth 16; breadth across postorbital processes 22; diastema 11.5; palate length from henselion 18.5; length of palatal foramina 2.7, of upper tooth series 6.8.

Type. Male. No. 1. 6. 4. 66. Collected November 2, 1900.

This squirrel is unexpectedly different from the true *S. æstuans* of Surinam and the Guianan coast-lands. Examples from Demerara and Cayenne, however, representing that form, are clearly different from the present, their darker colour, slenderer form, shorter fur, and especially the deep orange-buffy of their underparts readily separating them from the species found inland. Shaw's "*Myoxus guerlingus*" and Peters's "*Sciurus æstuans*, var. *guianensis*"\*, are both

\* MB. Ak. Berl. 1863, p. 655.

clearly the coast species. *S. quebradensis*, Allen\*, from Cumaná, has also many differences in colour, and possesses only three pairs of mammæ†.

### 18. *Rhipidomys nitela*, sp. n.

*a-f.* Six ad. and imm. skins.

Very similar to *R. venezuelæ*, but markedly smaller.

General external appearance quite as in *R. venezuelæ*, with which it shares the general greyish fawn-colour, sharply defined pure white belly, brown ears, light feet with brown middle line of metapodials, and long, hairy, uniformly brown tail. Fur of these specimens rather shorter (hairs of back about 5 millim. in length), but this may possibly be seasonal.

Skull: similar in shape to that of *R. venezuelæ*, but much smaller throughout, narrower and rather more delicately built. Supraorbital edges square, not heavily ridged. Palatal foramina large, widely open, extending to the level of the first lamina of  $m^1$ .

\* *Sciurus (Guerlinguetus) æstuans quebradensis*, Allen, Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xii. p. 217 (1899).

† The following squirrel, also presented by Mr. McConnell, may be here described:—

### *Sciurus Macconnelli*, sp. n.

A brownish olivaceous species, near *S. quebradensis*, but with eight mammæ. Fur longer and shaggier than in *S. Quelchii*, the hairs on the back about 11 millim. in length. General colour above grizzled brown, perhaps nearest to Ridgway's "vandyke brown," with an olivaceous tinge. Under surface rich fulvous or orange buffy, richest on the chest; chin and throat greyish; bases of hairs slaty grey; lines of demarcation on sides not defined. Head like body; ears rather short, their colour quite like that of the head; a prominent buffy postauricular patch present. Outer sides of limbs like body, the digits greyer; inner sides washed with fulvous, like that of the belly, but duller and paler. Tail imperfect in the single specimen, but evidently of the same type of coloration as in *S. Quelchii*. Mammæ 8.

Nasals comparatively long, parallel-sided, their outer corners level with the premaxillary processes behind, the middle of their hinder edge projecting angularly forwards.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body (c.) 190 millim.; hind foot, s. u. 44, c. u. 48; ear (dry) 17; nasals 14.5 (diagonally)  $\times$  6.4; front of lower premolar to tip of incisors 13.5.

*Hab.* Mt. Roraima, near its base.

*Type.* B.M. no. 1.1.28.1. Collected October 1, 1898, and presented by F. V. McConnell, Esq.

This species has somewhat the appearance of *S. quebradensis*, but may readily be distinguished by its possession of eight mammæ, as in *S. Quelchii*, from which it differs by its shaggier fur, browner colour above and more fulvous below; it is also distinguished from all its neighbours by its marked postauricular patches.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh) :—

Head and body 133 millim.; tail 140; hind foot, s. u. 25, c. u. 26; ear 16.

Skull: greatest length 32; basilar length 25.5; greatest breadth 16.6; nasals  $10.8 \times 3.4$ ; interorbital breadth 4.5; interparietal  $4 \times 10$ ; palate from henselion 12.9; diastema 8; palatal foramina  $6.8 \times 2.5$ ; length of upper molar series 4.4.

Type. Male. B.M. no. 1. 6. 4. 81. From Kwaimattat, Kanuku Mts. Collected October 12.

Although so closely similar to *R. venezuelæ* in colour and all essential characters, this species may be readily distinguished by its much smaller size, as shown by the above dimensions. With the other two Guianan species, *R. Macconnelli*, de Wint., and *R. Sclateri*, Thos., it has no near relationship.

### 19. *Holochilus guianæ*, sp. n.

*α-d.* Four ad. and imm. skins. November 28, 1900.

*a.* No. 179 the type.

A middle-sized species allied to *H. sciureus*, from whose locality it is separated by the range of the Amazonian *H. nanus*.

General colour of head and body grizzled greyish fawn, profusely mixed with blackish along the dorsal area. Sides gradually clearing and verging towards buffy cinnamon along the flanks; in some of the younger specimens this part is almost ochraceous buff. Belly not sharply defined, the longer hairs cinnamon or buffy, the woolly hairs slaty basally, dull white terminally; chin and inguinal regions entirely whitish, owing to the absence of the longer hairs. Ears short, blackish externally, buffy internally. Arms and legs like body; hands and feet glossy buffy white on the metapodials, clearer white on the digits. The feet themselves appear to be longer in proportion to the size of the skull than in *H. sciureus*. Tail shorter than head and body, finely scaly, thinly clothed with fine brownish hairs, the scales showing through; uniformly brown above, rather paler below.

Skull as compared with that of Bahian specimens assigned to *H. sciureus* lighter and more delicately built throughout, less heavily ridged, with a narrower muzzle and more slender zygomata. Interorbital region flat, its edges square, not produced into heavy upstanding ridges as in *H. sciureus*. Front of anterior zygoma-root with a marked projection above, below which the edge is concave forwards. Palatine

foramina about the length of the molar series, not reaching back to the front of  $m^1$ . Molars light and narrow, of the usual *Holochilus* pattern.

Dimensions of the type (measured by collector in the flesh) :—

Head and body 178 millim.; tail 159; hind foot, s. u. 38·5, c. u. 42; ear 15.

Skull: greatest length 37; basilar length 30·7; greatest breadth 20·6; nasals  $14\cdot5 \times 4\cdot5$ ; interorbital breadth 5; palate from henselion 18·7; palatal foramina  $7\cdot5 \times 2\cdot6$ ; length of upper molar series 6·9.

*Type.* B.M. no. 1. 6. 4. 87.

This water-rat, whose discovery extends the known range of the genus some way to the northward, is no doubt very closely allied to *H. sciureus*, but differs from it by its darker colour (Wagner says that in his type “fehlt eine schwarze Beimischung ganz”) and by the more lighter build and less ridged skull. *H. nanus*, the smallest species of the genus, occurs in the Amazonian valley, and divides the ranges of the other two.

## 20. *Sigmomys* \* *savannarum*, sp. n.

Fourteen skins. 240 feet. October and November. “On Savannahs.”

Allied to *S. Alstoni*, Thos.†, and similarly like a *Sigmodon*, but paler in colour, with shorter foot and shorter skull.

Size rather less than in *S. Alstoni*. Fur straight and sparse, with little or no underfur; hairs of back about 10 millim. in length. General colour above heavily lined and mottled brown and greyish buffy, the combination not easily definable, but perhaps nearest to Ridgway’s “broccoli-

\* Genus novum. Type “*Reithrodon*” *Alstoni*, Thos. P. Z. S. 1880, p. 691.

The many differences that distinguished *R. Alstoni* from the true *Reithrodons* were detailed when the species was described. Further consideration and much further material render it clear that the *Alstoni* group, *Sigmodon*-like in external appearance, in skull, and in dentition, should be separated generically from the true *Reithrodon*. In distinguishing *Sigmomys* emphasis may be laid on the evenly tapering cranial outline, the broad short molars, the deep well-defined pterygoid fossæ, and on the number of the mammæ, there being, as in *Sigmodon*, 10 at least, as against 8 in *Reithrodon*. Altogether it seems probable that this form is rather a grooved-toothed *Sigmodon* than any close relation to *Reithrodon*.

† This species was described on a spirit-specimen from “Venezuela” collected many years before by Mr. Dyson. But an excellent series of skins, agreeing closely with the type, was recently received from Cumaná, so that that may now be looked upon as the typical locality.

brown." On the rump the buffy becomes rather clearer. Top of head like back; sides of nose with a distinct buffy-yellow spot; eyes surrounded by a prominent whitish ring. Hairs of ears brown externally, yellowish internally, but without marked contrasts. Under surface soiled whitish or buffy, not sharply defined, the bases of the hairs slaty, the tips either white or buffy, the variation in this respect being considerable, as is also the case in *S. Alstoni*; hairs of throat and groin whitish to their roots. Front of arms like body, inner sides whitish; hands and wrists dull whitish; hind limbs similar in colour, but the inner side of the leg is nearly or quite naked; fifth hind toe as in *S. Alstoni*, but little longer than first, and falling short of the base of the fourth. Tail about as long as the body without the head, well haired, brownish above, white below for its whole length.

Skull quite similar to that of *S. Alstoni* in general structure, but shorter and perhaps rather broader in proportion.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 133 millim.; tail 95; hind foot, s. u. 25, c. u. 27; ear 19.

Skull: greatest length 32; basilar length 26; greatest breadth 19; nasals  $11.5 \times 4$ ; interorbital breadth 4.5; palate from henselion 13.8; diastema 8.2; palatal foramina  $7 \times 2.4$ ; length of upper molar series 5.3.

Type. Male. B.M. no. 1. 6. 4. 100. Original number 51. Killed October 18, 1900.

This species is readily distinguished by its shorter skull and lighter colour from *S. Alstoni*, to which alone it is allied and with which it forms a special group.

## 21. *Oryzomys navus messorius*, subsp. n.

Six skins and two spirit-specimens.

Close to *Oryzomys (Oligoryzomys) navus*, Bangs, of which it appears to form a geographical race.

General colour above grizzled greyish fawn, varying towards rufous; rump more rufous than back. Face greyer. Ears comparatively short, but little darker than the general colour of the head, very different therefore to the blackish ears of *O. fulvescens* and *costaricensis*. Under surface dull whitish, with scarcely a trace of buffy, not sharply defined laterally; the hairs all greyish basally. Hands and feet white. Tail short for this group, thinly haired, brown above, lighter beneath; not so sharply contrasted as in *O. fulvescens*.

Skull as usual in this group.



Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh) :—

Head and body 82 millim.; tail 95; hind foot, s. u. 21, c. u. 22; ear 12·5.

Skull: greatest length 22·5; basilar length 16·4; greatest breadth 12; length of nasals 8; interorbital breadth 3·6; palatal foramina  $4·1 \times 2$ ; length of upper molar series 3·1.

Type. Female. B.M. no. 1. 6. 4. 97. Collected November 29th.

This local representative of the *Oligoryzomys* group seems to differ from *O. navus*, the only form which is not geographically very remote, by its shorter tail and slightly different colour, and no doubt represents a tenable subspecies. It is not improbable that *O. fulvescens*, *O. navus*, *O. costaricensis*, and perhaps other described forms will all prove to be local subspecies of one widely-spread species.

## 22. *Zygodontomys stellæ*, Thos.

Twelve skins. 240 and 500 feet. October to December. Evidently the commonest rat of the region.

## 23. *Proechimys cayennensis*, Desm.

Six skins of different ages. 240 and 500 feet. November and December.

Without topotypes of *P. cayennensis* I cannot be certain of the determination of these specimens. They are certainly very different from the Brazilian forms referred to *cayennensis* by Waterhouse, but geographically are likely enough to be Desmarest's species. They are of the same rufous group as *P. Cherrii*, *Urichi*, *trinitatis*, and other north-western species of the genus.

## 24. *Cavia porcellus guianæ*, subsp. n.

Four skins of different ages from the Kanuku Mountains, 7th and 8th December, 600 feet, and one from Berbice, on the coast.

Similar in general characters to the typical Brazilian form, but much paler and greyer above and less deeply buffy below.

Size, character of fur, &c. as in the typical form. General colour above grey (near the "olive-grey" of Ridgway), heavily grizzled and lined with black, this latter colour predominating on the posterior dorsal area, while the head, neck, shoulders, flanks, and rump are of the clearer greyish. The light constituent of the general grey varies in different specimens from whitish towards buffy. Under surface whitish or slightly buffy, the bases of the hairs slaty grey; the usual

dark collar of the same grey as the sides. Eyes with indistinct whitish rings. Ears thinly haired, whitish. Limbs grizzled grey like body, lightening to nearly white on the fingers and toes.

Skull and teeth not definably different from those of the true *C. porcellus*.

Dimensions of the type :—

Head and body 275 millim.; hind foot, s. u. 43, c. u. 46; ear 19.

Skull: greatest length 59; basilar length 49; greatest breadth 35·5; nasals 22 × 9; palate 28; diastema 17; length of molar series (alveoli) 14·5.

*Type.* Male. B.M. no. 1. 6. 4. 120. Killed 7th December, 1900.

The difference in colour between this Guianan cavy and the Brazilian one is very considerable, but there is a striking agreement in other characters.

### 25. *Myrmecophaga jubata*, L.

Mount Roraima, 5000 feet.

### 26. *Didelphis marsupialis*, L.

Three skins.

There appears to be no difference between these specimens and skins from the coast-region of Demerara.

In spite of the arguments brought forward by Dr. Allen in his most recent publication on the subject, I still think that the Guianan opossum should be regarded as the type form of Linnæus's *D. marsupialis*.

The evidence of the sixth edition of the 'Systema,' where Seba, and Seba only, is quoted, shows what animal Linnæus had in his mind when speaking of *D. marsupialis*. The interesting fact, to which Dr. Gill has drawn my attention, that Linnæus worked under Seba in arranging the latter's collection, adds weight to what we find in his works as to the importance of the Seba collection in the preparation of his arrangement of the species of *Didelphis*.

### 27. *Metachirus opossum*, L.

One skin from the Rupununi River, 27th September, 200 feet, and four from the Kanuku Mountains, 300 and 600 feet, November and December.

### 28. *Metachirus nudicaudatus*, Geoff.

Two skins, unfortunately both quite young. 6th December. 600 feet.

29. *Marmosa Klagesi*, Allen.

Skin. No. 120. 240 feet. 29th October, 1900.

I have fortunately been able to compare this opossum with one of Dr. Allen's original specimens from Ciudad Bolivar brought over by him. Mr. Quelch's specimen is younger, and therefore smaller, but there is no difference between the two which might not be explainable by age. *M. Robinsoni*, Bangs \*, is also no doubt closely allied.

This identification is another indication of the faunal affinity between the Lower Orinoco and the Kanuku Mountains.

XXII.—*List of small Mammals obtained by Mr. A. E. Pease, M.P., during his recent Expedition to Abyssinia, with Descriptions of Three new Forms of Macroscelides.* By  
OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.R.S.

IN the course of a sporting expedition through Abyssinia during the past winter Mr. A. E. Pease collected a number of small mammals which, in addition to some heads and horns of larger animals, he has been good enough to present to the National Museum. Among them is a new *Macroscelides*, and in describing it I have taken the opportunity to describe two other members of that genus in the Museum collection.

There are also examples of the rare and interesting species *Dendromys Lovati* and *Lophuromys flavopunctatus*.

1. *Macroscelides Peasei*, sp. n.

a. ♂. Hoolul, Abyssinia, 4000 feet. December 2, 1900.  
*Type* (B.M. no. 1. 7. 6. 1).

Most closely allied to *M. pulcher*, Thos., but greyer in colour.

Size and general characters very much as in *M. pulcher*. Fur about 9–10 millim. in length on the back. General colour above a soft vinaceous grey, resembling to a certain extent Ridgway's "vinaceous buff," distinctly paler than in *M. pulcher*; the dorsal area is more vinaceous and the flanks more grey. Viewed from behind the colour is a paler edition of Ridgway's "ecru drab." Muzzle grey, the dorsal dark line well marked; crown like back. Light orbital rings narrower than in *M. pulcher*; light and dark patches behind eye larger and less intensely contrasted than in *M. pulcher*.

\* P. Biol. Soc. Wash. xii. p. 95 (1898).